

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the specification as follows.

Kindly amend the paragraph which extends from page 4 line 20 to page 4 line 24 as follows:

--In conventional practice, the markings are typically drawn free-hand with a carpenter's pencil or other hand-held marker ~~the like~~, at the construction site, typically with assist of a tape measure to determine distances. Making the stud locator markings by hand is accompanied by a number of shortcomings. First, doing the work by hand is labor intensive and thus relatively costly.--

Kindly amend the paragraph which extends from page 5 line 3 to page 5 line 4 as follows:

--It is another object to provide such framing lumber products wherein the markings are applied by machines, not by hand-held markers.--

Kindly amend the paragraph which extends from page 14 line 35 to page 15 line 5 as follows:

--A variety of marking machines, processes, and materials can be used to form marks 14, 16. For example and without limitation, marks 14, 16 can be printed on board 10 using readily available printers and printing inks, can be cut into the wood as with a mechanical saw, or can be chemically etched into the wood. Marks 14, 16 can be burned into the wood using, for example, a laser beam, or can be formed by other forms of oxidizing or otherwise modifying the wood to create the desired visual indications. Similar marking machines and processes can readily be devised for forming marks 14, 16 on units of framing lumber product made from other materials such as e.g. steel.--

Kindly amend the paragraph which extends from page 16 line 21 to page 16 line 35 as follows:

--The markings can be applied to individual units of product when the product is sold to a consumer at e.g. a retail store or lumber yard, and before the product is released to the customer whereby the lumber product is pre-marked when purchased by the consumer. In the alternative, the product can be manufactured, such as at a lumber manufacturing facility, so that most or all of the units of such product in a bin or bundle are pre-marked and thus bear e.g. 8-inch markings when they arrive and are stocked at the retail store or lumber yard sales-facility. In such case, the seller may elect to fill all sales of boards of such dimensions from the marked stock, or may elect to fill from such marked stock only sales of boards where the customer expects to use the markings to locate or place stud ends or ends of other sticks of framing lumber.

While both 16 and 24 are whole number multiples of 2-inch and 4-inch spacings, 2-inch and 4-inch spacings are so close together as to again present visual clutter on the board. Thus, spacings "S" of 4 inches and less are not part of this invention.

Such pre-marked ~~marked~~ lumber attracts a premium cost of manufacture because of the cost of pre-marking the lumber pieces at the manufacturing facility ~~markings~~. Accordingly, the customer normally prefers the cost advantage of buying the marked lumber only for those framing members where the benefits of the markings are realized, namely where stud spacing determinations are being made.--